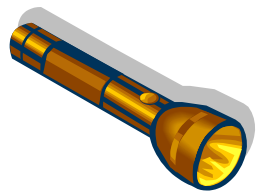


Residential Power Outage Tips

During warm weather months, demand for electricity in Wisconsin is greater than other times of the year. Utilities plan and build the electric system to have extra capacity available so customer outages are unlikely. Because of higher electrical use, this extra capacity is smaller in warm weather months, increasing the likelihood of outages.

What can you do to prepare for a power outage?



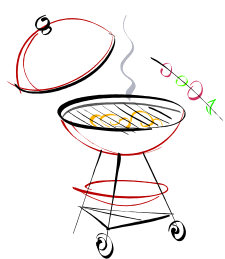
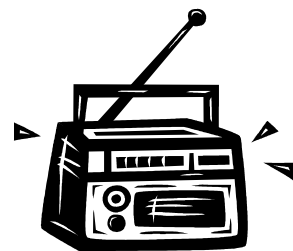
- Keep a battery-operated radio, for news and weather reports, and flashlights handy. Don't forget a fresh supply of batteries.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer full, either with food or containers of water. This will help preserve food for a longer period of time.
- Unplug refrigerators and freezers that are not in use.



- Have a supply of bottled water or tap water for use if the water supply is interrupted. This can be stored in your refrigerator or freezer to help keep them full.
- Back up any work you are doing on the computer frequently.
- Be aware that gas equipment with electronic ignition, such as water heaters and ovens, will not work in the event of a power outage.
- If you are concerned about loss of your security system, make sure you have a functioning battery back-up.
- If you or someone you know depends on electrically operated medical equipment, coordinate an emergency plan with friends and relatives.
- If you are sensitive to heat, or you are taking medication that makes you heat sensitive, contact your physician and your hospital for information. Develop an emergency plan with friends and relatives.

What can you do if the power does go out?

- Unplug sensitive equipment like televisions and computers. After the electricity is restored, plug them back in one at a time.
- Prevent refrigerated food from spoiling by keeping refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- Listen to local radio stations for public service announcements regarding power restoration.
- If you have an air conditioner, you can keep cool air inside your home by keeping doors and windows closed. Keeping shades and curtains closed will also prevent heat gain.



- Stay out of your basement if it becomes flooded. Water is an excellent conductor of electricity, so it can be dangerous to be in a flooded basement if the power comes back on. Before entering the basement after the power is restored, have a qualified electrician check appliances and outlets that may have been damaged by water.
- Do not cook with a charcoal grill inside. Always grill outdoors.
- When power is restored, use water sparingly if on a municipal or city well. The wells and/or boosters that serve your home may still be out of service.
- Contact your friends and neighbors, especially the elderly and those dependent on electrically operated medical equipment to see if they need assistance.

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